



58 - The Garden - Mark 14.32-42 - Discussion Notes

Introduction

The name Gethsemane, means "oil press". It was in this garden that Jesus, who up to this point had been calm and controlled, appears to unravel under the crushing weight of the thought of "the cup" he would soon drink. What Jesus appears to be agonizing over most seems not to be just the physical suffering but the reality that he would be abandoned by his Father. Jesus would bear Israel's (and the whole world's) sin and its consequences and enter into God's displeasure. In Gethsemane, it is as if God said to Jesus, "here is the cup of my wrath and displeasure against sin; it is them or you", and Jesus said, "let it be me."

Observation/Interpretation

- Read Mark 14:33-36. How would you describe Jesus' emotional state?
- In Mark 14:32-40, Jesus prayed three times for rescue, and every time the answer he appears to be no. If Jesus submitted himself to the will of His Father even though he received such an answer to such heartfelt and honest prayers, what practical/personal lessons can we learn from our prayers?

Application

- What are some areas in your life that you have prayed to God to do something but his answer was contrary to what you were hoping?
- How did you respond to God? Did you get angry? Did you become cynical?
- Have there been moments in your life in hindsight you are glad that God didn't answer your prayers the way you had originally wanted? What were they?
- As a community of redeemed people on God's mission (the church), what are some ways we can be praying and giving ourselves to helping others even though it may feel like it's pressing us, as "bearing one-another's" burdens may imply?

Prayer

- Because Jesus bore the great burden of our sin/death, ask God to empower you to bear the lesser burdens of others, by seeking to be a blessing even though it may feel like crushing.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.